

**PERSEA AMERICANA.** (Lauraceae.) 34698. Seeds of avocado from Rome, Italy. Presented by Dr. Gustav Eisen. "The tree in question is in all probability about 100 years old and, though I do not know for certain, I think it likely to have been imported from Mexico by, or at least at the time of, Valadier, the French gardener and architect, who in the beginning of the nineteenth century arranged the Pincio garden. The tree is growing there in perfect vigor and health. Perhaps about forty feet high and the trunk several feet in diameter. The variety is one which I have never seen on the Pacific Coast of Mexico or Central America. The fruit being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, pear-shaped, that is, tapering toward the stalk end. This year there were 100 fruits or over, all arriving at perfect maturity in October and November, the last ones being picked about November 15. The earlier fruits are larger and may average from  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to 1 inch more than the size given above, which refers to the late fruits. In quality this fruit is equal to the very best that I have eaten in Guatemala and Mexico, and is of exquisite flavor. The seed is perfectly round, pale yellow brown and evidently perfectly developed. The variety is also characterized by its precocity, ripening before frost. It will succeed, without any doubt, in most parts of California, Arizona, southern Texas, the Gulf States generally, in a word in any territory extending from the northern limit of the hardiest orange southward, that means San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, in California, the Coast Range, etc. Introduced to this territory the tree would prove of immense value and would enter at once into active competition with the Mexican and Island avocados now imported and sold at a prohibitive price." (Eisen.) As the temperatures in Rome average from  $44.6^{\circ}$  F. to  $76.1^{\circ}$ , with an absolute minimum of  $17.2^{\circ}$  F., it will be seen that this tree has considerable promise. However its location may be a very sheltered one, and Dr. Eisen's optimistic report may have to be modified considerably after tests in this country. For distribution later.

**PITTOSPORUM RALPHII.** (Pittosporaceae.) 34722. Seeds from Wellington, New Zealand. Presented by Mr. G. J. Clapham, Public Works Department. "A beautiful, somewhat laxly branched shrub 15 to 20 feet in height, found in the central district of the North Island of New Zealand. Its dark-crimson fascicled little flower bells with their slightly emergent yellow anther tips, resting on the downy white young foliage, make it, when in bloom, one of the most attractive of the large New Zealand shrubs." (Blackwell and Laing, Plants of New Zealand.) For distribution later.